



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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13 CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS HONORED ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5TH FOR THEIR ROLES DURING KITCHEN FIRE AT PATUXENT INSTITUTION

Their quick efforts made evacuation smooth, prevented potential disaster

TOWSON, MD (January 5, 2004)—Thirteen Patuxent Institution correctional officers whose fast action prevented injuries during a kitchen fire in December were honored during a morning roll call presentation on Wednesday, January 5.

Officer Anthony Gladden, a 15-year veteran, was working in a tower when he saw smoke and flames coming from the roof of the prison's kitchen on Sunday morning, December 19. He alerted officers inside and called the fire department. The twelve other officers and dietary personnel to be honored quickly evacuated the inmates and staff, and secured the kitchen area. Firefighters from Anne Arundel and Howard counties quickly extinguished the flames. One correctional officer later complained of respiratory trouble, but there were no other injuries.

"These officers' alertness and fast action prevented what could have been a much more serious outcome," said Dr. Randall Nero, Director of Patuxent Institution, the state's nationally acclaimed remediation and treatment prison in Jessup. "We're very grateful for their actions, which surely prevented not only injury, but the potential for a much more serious evacuation."

The officers were honored with a citation during morning roll call, which was also attended by WJZ-TV. The commendations were reported by other media outlets as well.

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